

I have just recently become aware of the changes being proposed to FCC rules which would impact Christian radio stations. I am very concerned that these changes would have a disastrous impact on the radio stations I listen to almost exclusively: Air 1, K-Love and 104.1 The Fish in Portland Oregon.

One concern I have is over the proposed change which essentially requires stations to become like Cable TV public access channels. This seems foolish and counter-productive to me, and not appropriate for the radio broadcast medium. I believe such a change is a direct violation of the First Amendment protections for free exercise of religion, as it does not allow a station to broadcast a specific belief.

Similarly, the change which requires quarterly reporting regarding the cross-section of programming also wreaks of First Amendment violation. It would be like requiring Spanish stations to also have English and Japanese broadcast times, or a Classical station to broadcast New Age music and Jazz. When I tune in to a station, I do so for particular reasons, and I don't expect to find chaotic programming which is not consistent with the purpose or focus of the station!

I also object to having a community advisory board directing the programming of a station. This makes no sense at all. It would be like having a community advisory board directing the operation of a restaurant or a sports team or a health club, to name only a few examples. Community advisory boards have a place, but this is not it. Christians have a lot of opposition in our culture today, and this makes it easy for those in opposition to interject their own beliefs and prevent Christians from expressing the beliefs which are the foundation of our religion— again a violation of First Amendment rights.

Although I have many other objections, the last I will mention is the proposed change which will force stations to relocate their main studio facilities and/or hire additional staff. This change is a huge financial burden to many Christian radio stations! It is unnecessary and is poor management of finances, time and resources. Air1 and K-Love in particular are listener supported stations which do not receive income from advertising, and operate on relatively small budgets, which will be completely unable to absorb the expensive changes being proposed.

In closing, I hope you will strongly reconsider all of the proposed changes to FCC rules which will have such a huge impact on Christian radio in particular. Millions of people in this country depend on these stations to give them hope in all kinds of situations and difficult experiences. It is such a breath of fresh air to have clean, family-oriented, moral stations which

provide enjoyable and uplifting content as well as helping believers and non-believers to learn more about God and his Word.

Sincerely,
Melissa F. Heuser